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INFORMATION

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Doc. 1. The Committee of the Federation of Labor Unions (Mustafa 'Aris' Communist-dominated Federation) has recently issued two tracts. One calls upon the Lebanese working class to continue its struggle to defend its rights against the "hired traitors." Its heading reads as follows:

"The insistence on trying Mustafa 'Aris and his comrades before the Court of Justice on Saturday morning, 22 January 1949, is a scandalous conspiracy to terrorize the working class in Lebanon."

The second tract, issued by the same committee, denounces "this flagrant aggression against union liberties and against the union struggles," and demands that the authorities release Mustafa 'Aris, Joan Nizar, and Malik 'Abd-al-Malik.

- The Executive Council of the League of Unions (non-communist Government-sponsored group) met on 16 January 1949 at the League's Club. After Council affairs had been discussed, Tawfiq Faghali was elected Secretary General of the League.
- For the first time in several years, the Council of the Typesetters' Union (Mustafa 'Aris' group of typesetters) did not hold its regular meeting. According to source, this situation arose because of the Union's failure among all the printing press workers, and because there was nothing new to discuss. Members of this Union are restricting their efforts to Communist Party activities, which are in charge of Sa'd-al-Din Huminah, who has replaced Mustafa 'Aris. Huminah receives a monthly salary of 150 Lebanese pounds from the Party, and he also receives 50 pounds a week from al-Hajah printing press, although he devotes all his time to the Communist Party, and only uses the press job as a cover, source claims.
- The Communist typesetters sent Emil Shinali and a certain "Bulos" to ask Zaki Hudayar, a member of the Typesetters' and Bookbinders' Union, to find out whether the new union would accept the adherence of the Communists in one bloc. When Hudayar reported this to the Council of the Union, the President replied, "Let them submit their applications in the legal way. The Council will examine each application separately, and will accept

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those deemed suitable. All this will be done in accordance with the constitutional and internal law of the Union.*

5. Shortly before the elections were held for the Council of the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) Workers' Union, the Council ruled that only employees receiving monthly salaries could join the Union and have the right to vote, thus excluding all probationary workers. According to source, this was a maneuver of the Hizb al-Qawmi al-Suri al-Ijtima'i (Syrian Popular Party) which dominates the present Council, in order to assure a majority in the elections.
 6. Great agitation developed among the workers, and numerous meetings were held, at which it was decided to oppose the Union Council. The workers decided as follows:
 - a. To send a delegation to discuss the problem with the Director of the Social Affairs Department.
 - b. To send a delegation to demand that the authorities enforce the law prohibiting employment of foreigners who might compete with Lebanese labor.
 - c. To have those workers who are now excluded from the Union sign applications for membership.
 7. Tawfiq Faghali, President of the League of Unions, to which League the IPC Union belongs, told the League's Executive Council that the majority of the IPC workers must be permitted to join the Union and to vote, in order to prevent them from swinging over to the Communists. Source says that a second meeting will be held to discuss this question.
- 25X1A2g * See [REDACTED] for a previous Communist effort of this nature which received the same reply.

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